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The Society then adjourned till Thursday, the 9th of May, when the summer meetings at the Royal Botanic Garden will be resumed.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ON THE WILD CATTLE OF GREAT BRITAIN.

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These great forests of the Chiltern district of Buckinghamshire, Herts, &c., were those in which the Saxon chieftains, aided by some of the citizens of London, for a long time held out against the Norman conqueror, under the countenance of Abbot Fretheric; and where, in subsequent times, the citizens maintained their right of hunting,

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ON A NEW SPECIES OF *SEPIOLA*.

MM. Gervais and Vanbeneben have lately presented to the Acad. des Scienc. de Bruxelles a memoir on the genus *Sepiola*, and in a subsequent note have described a new species under the name of *macrosoma* from the Bay of Naples, and figured in Della Chiaje's 'Memorie sugli animali senza vertebre,' pl. 71. fig. 1—2. The most remarkable fact found by the authors in examining this species was the existence of an inferior eyelid, which in a certain degree calls to mind the principal character on which R. Owen established his *Rossia palpebrosa*. The *Sep. macrosoma* has moreover in common with this a very extraordinary size. It would perhaps be necessary, did we not place entire confidence in the accurate descriptions of the learned Englishman, to compare individuals of the two species. However their geographical distribution alone would authorize their separation, the one having been discovered by Capt. Ross at the Arctic Pole, while our species inhabits the Bay of Naples.

The body is globular and perfectly rounded at its posterior part. The arms are placed about middle way, they are by some lines closer together beneath than above. The mantle does not present any point of adhesion with the body in its inferior or anal portion; it is only at the nuchal or superior part that a junction of a small extent is perceived. The dorsal plate is larger in front than behind, and gradually becomes narrow. It is undoubtedly the largest species of the genus. If we compare it with the *S. palpebrosa* we first see the eye-ball protected by a palpebral fold in both species, but in the northern one the eyelids completely hide the eyes, and there exists one above and one below, although the latter is the largest. In our species we cannot find a trace of any superior eyelid, consequently the eye is not completely closed.

R. Owen supposes that these eyelids serve the species inhabiting the cold countries to protect the eye-ball against the fragments of ice, but the existence of eyelids in a Neapolitan species necessarily destroys this supposition.

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——— of the tentacula	4	5
——— of the dorsal plate	0	8
Breadth at the root of the arms	1	0
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M. Delle Chiaje possesses one double the size of this.—*Bulletin de l'Acad. de Bruxelles*, Jan. 1839.

[We do not see how the existence of a Cephalopod in the Mediterranean with one eyelid inadequate to protect the eye-ball is conclusive against the use assigned by Mr. Owen to a peculiarly perfect defensive palpebral organization in a Cephalopod inhabiting seas which in the summer are crowded with spicular crystals of ice.—EDIT.]

ON THE NEMATOIDEA. BY DR. CREPLIN.

I take this opportunity of drawing the attention of naturalists to a law which from many years' personal observations, as well as from those of others, I have constantly found to hold good: viz. that a *Nematoidean* living singly in a cyst, inclosed on all sides, or enveloped closely in a membrane, *never* possesses sexual organs.

Rudolphi everywhere states, when speaking of *Nematoidea* so inclosed, that he had never been able to discover generative organs in any of them. It is true that he mentions in his 'Entoz. Hist. Nat.' ii. p. 152. a sexual difference in *Ascaris* (e mesenterio *Cotti scorpii*) *angulata*, but he does not prove by his remarks the accuracy of his assertion; and when Zeder 'Naturgeschichte,' § 53, 54 talks of an ovary and probable seminal vessels in his *Capsularia*, he by no means proves that the organs observed possess the functions he ascribes to them. I confine myself at present to this short notice without enumerating those species which I have examined, as I think of describing them elsewhere, and take the liberty of requesting helminthologists to be so kind as to give publicity to their observations, with a view to the confirmation or refutation of the universality of the above law.—*Wiegmann's Archiv*, vol. iv. part V.

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ACTION OF FROST ON PLANTS.

M. Morren has recently laid before the Academy of Brussels an account of his investigations relative to the action of cold on plants, the results of which are, that however delicate the organization of the plants, not one of their elementary parts is ruptured by the action of the frost, but the functions are entirely deranged; thus the organs of respiration are filled with water, and those of nutrition with air; so that the natural order is perverted, and death is the consequence.

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[We may observe that the organization of the incysted microscopic Entozoon (*Trichina spiralis*, O.), discovered by Mr. Owen in the human muscles, accords with the generalization enunciated by Dr. Creplin.—EDIT.]

ACTION OF FROST ON PLANTS.

M. Morren has recently laid before the Academy of Brussels an account of his investigations relative to the action of cold on plants, the results of which are, that however delicate the organization of the plants, not one of their elementary parts is ruptured by the action of the frost, but the functions are entirely deranged; thus the organs of respiration are filled with water, and those of nutrition with air; so that the natural order is perverted, and death is the consequence.

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